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THE
MONTHLY



Volume 46

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April 1964

Number 4

DR. REYNOLDS TO ADDRESS APRIL MEETING

The 549th regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held on **Thursday, April 9**, at 7:30 p.m. in the Rotary Natural Science Center, Lakeside Park, Oakland.

We are fortunate to have Dr. T. Eric Reynolds, President of the California Physicians' Service, as our speaker. Dr. Reynolds is known to most of you. He is a former president of our organization and has addressed us on a number of occasions. The title of his lecture will be "Fact and Fiction Regarding the Great Auk and Other Species."

We urge you to attend and bring a friend or two. A no-host dinner will be held at 6 p.m. at Lovely's Buffet, 336 Grand Ave. near Perkins.

— ROBERT C. DaCOSTA, JR., *Program Chairman*

FIELD TRIPS FOR APRIL

On **Sunday, April 5**, to Farallon Islands on Privateer II. Departure will be from Berkeley Harbor at 5:30 a.m., with a later pick-up of passengers in San Francisco. Complete information as to time, clothing, etc., will be sent to all who reserve space. Fee \$8.50 per person. This should be sent to the Field Trips Chairman, Harold G. Peterson, 3548 - 65th Ave., Oakland 5, with your name, address and PHONE NUMBER. Make all checks payable to the Golden Gate Audubon Society Inc. Names will be placed on the passenger list in the order received. Space limited. Leaders: R. Stallcup, LO 9-3185; Ed Willis, 524-4270; R. O. Paxton, 841-4010.

On **Saturday, April 11**, a Birding by Ear study will be made in Redwood Regional Park. A good concentration of birds can be expected in the heavy growth of trees and shrubs all announcing the arrival of Spring. Best results are obtained by assembling before daybreak. The sunrise on that day is 5:43 a.m. Meet at the Redwood Road south entrance to the park at 5:15 a.m. Leader Harold G. Peterson, phone 568-7534.

On **Saturday, April 11**, to Bay Farm Island. Shore birds in spring plumage should be abundant. Spring migration is usually at its height during this week. Meet at 9 a.m., at Lincoln Park, Santa Clara Ave. and High St., Alameda. McCartney Rd. and the sunken ship area will be explored in addition to any new areas created by the airport development. High tide at Golden Gate 10:44 a.m. Bring binoculars, telescope, interested friends, and lunch if you plan to stay through the period of maximum movement of birds. Beginning birders are urged to come and learn some of the techniques of birding. Leader: Elsic Rocmer, 522-0941.

On **Sunday, April 12**, the trip to Bay Farm Island will be repeated. Leader: Harold Peterson, LO 8-7534.

Thursday, April 16, to Sunol Valley Regional Park, which offers a good deal in birds, flowers, and scenery. We will meet at 8:30 a.m. at MacArthur Blvd. and 55th Ave., Oakland, for instructions and to pick up passengers. From San Francisco take the "N" bus from the terminal at 7:47, and in Oakland take bus No. 34 or 57, getting off at 55th Avenue. Be sure to bring lunch. Leader, Marshall Jencks, 534-9353.

On **Saturday and Sunday, April 18 and 19**, to Pinnacles National Monument in the coast range near Hollister for an overnight campout. This monument is noted for its scenic beauty and early California history.

Birds and mammals abound in this protected area. There should be a good show of wild flowers. At 1 p.m. on Saturday, Monument Headquarters will be the starting point for a hike into the caves area. Also at 9 a.m. on Sunday, it will be the starting point of a conducted tour on foot to the upper Pinnacles. From the Bay Area drive via U.S. 101 from San Jose, to 2 miles south of Gilroy, then turn left on State 25 to right turn sign into Monument 30 miles beyond Hollister. Distance from Bay Area 120 miles. Driving time 3 hours. Leader: Oliver Allen, 948-5639.

On **Saturday, April 25**, to McCoy Ranch, Arroyo Mocho, southwest of Livermore. Few places so close can equal the pastoral beauty of this foothill canyon in the springtime. Orioles, phainopepla, western kingbirds, yellowbilled magpie, and Lewis' woodpecker are usually seen. Meet in Livermore one block beyond the flagpole on Livermore Avenue at 9:30 a.m. Allow one hour driving time from Oakland. Leader, Erline Hevel, PRospect 5-6498.

On **Sunday, April 26**, the McCoy Ranch trip will be repeated. Leader, Carlyle Sather, PLaza 6-0581.

On **Sunday, May 3**, to Jack London Ranch, Glen Ellen, Sonoma Co. This is the home of Marianne Shepard. Here are wooded slopes covered with oaks, shrubs and conifers, an ideal habitat for birds. At this season the rolling meadows will be covered with wild flowers. Red-shouldered hawks nest on the ranch at this time of the year. Meet at 9 a.m. at Glen Ellen post office. It is about one mile from Highway 12, seven miles from Sonoma, and 15 miles from Santa Rosa. Bring lunch, binoculars, telescopes and interested friends. Leaders, Marianne and Susan Shepard, Box 141 Glen Ellen— HAROLD G. PETERSON, *Field Trips Chairman*.

FIELD TRIP FOR CHILDREN

The next field trip for the children on **Saturday, April 25**, will be led by Mr. Harold Peterson. The group will meet in Alameda at Lincoln Park, at Santa Clara Avenue and Park Street at 10:30 a.m. Public transportation from the East Bay: Take AC Trans Bus No. 51 which starts at the foot of University Avenue in Berkeley. From San Francisco take AC Trans. "O" bus leaving East Bay Terminal, 2nd and Mission Streets at 9:50 a.m. The trip will finish at Lincoln Park, Alameda at 2 p.m. Bring your lunch along, also a note book and pencil and field glasses if you have them. You will be looking for shore birds at Bay Farm Island. These birds run on the

beach ahead of high tide and just after the tide has turned. High tide at 11:11 a.m. Parents, friends and members of the Golden Gate Audubon Society are welcome.—JANET NICKELSBURG, *Education Chairman*. (The enclosed leaflet on shore birds is for the children.)

COVEL'S CONSERVATION CORNER — CLOSE-UPS

GOOD NEWS we are happy to report, after proper substantiation, is that upward of 4,500 acres of choice new land are going to be added to Mt. Diablo State Park, with the expenditure of approximately \$1,300,000 by State Park Commission. Such action has been one of the prime objectives of local conservationists in recent years. We publicly thank the Commission and Division of Beaches and Parks people who have managed to bring this about and who are currently carrying out this project.

What appeared to be another shower of blessings upon long-suffering California conservationists and worshippers of the majestic Coast Redwood was a recent press announcement of a pact of cooperation between the State Highway Commission and the State Park Commission in the effort to avoid future obliteration of park values in highway construction. But we have it from the Save-the-Redwoods League, from at least one of the State Park Commissioners, and from segments of the public press, that a highway threat still exists for the redwoods of Prairie Creek State Park, for lovely Gold Beach, and, perhaps, for other irreplaceable natural monuments and treasures which will in the future stand in the way of the freeway planners. It is unwise to relax and forget the issues after reading of one of these much publicized "peace pacts."

Speaking of modern freeways versus nature and wildlife — the expressions of horror and anguish over recent robin kills along certain berry-planted freeways in Contra Costa County reached and shook us once again. We have written to the Chief State Highway Engineer to ask what can be done to reduce or eliminate these beautiful but lethal baited "bird death-traps" in the future. We've suggested they may also endanger motorists.

The Land and Water Conservation Bill (H.R. 3846) now being considered by Congress in its basic form was endorsed by the National Audubon Society, the Sierra Club, and most other leading conservation groups. It would place modest fees on users of some recreation areas, annual nationwide National Park entry permits, and fees for some wildlife refuge visits. — PAUL COVEL, *Conservation Chairman*.

THE CANYON RANCH FILM IS AVAILABLE

Last year the Canyon Ranch film made by Laurel Reynolds and Mindy Willis was in constant use — in fact, there were conflicts and some organizations were asked to try again later. At the moment, the film's schedule is not overcrowded, so now is the time to make reservations.

School teachers — try to schedule a showing for your fellow teachers or for the children.

Garden club members — has your club seen the film?

Business men's organizations — does anyone belong to the Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, etc.?

Youth organizations — the film is excellent for these groups.

For reservations contact Mrs. Budd J. Smith, 555 Dewey Blvd., San Francisco 16, or Mrs. George Browne, 482 Broadmoor Blvd., San Leandro.

— BONNIE SMITH

DON'T FORGET

Golden Gate's Picnic at Canyon Ranch

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 4:00 p.m.

(In lieu of the membership meeting on May 14)

AUDUBON CANYON RANCH ENDOWMENT FUND SET UP

To make sure that Canyon Ranch will remain a strong and effective force for conservation and nature education in the Bay Area, as well as a sanctuary and a green and unspoiled source of pleasure and relaxation for as many years as we can think ahead, an endowment fund has been set up with the San Francisco Foundation by the directors of Audubon Canyon Ranch.

The **income** from the fund will be distributed by the San Francisco Foundation to Audubon Canyon Ranch for maintenance and upkeep, for improvements, administration and other expenses, for as long as Canyon Ranch is effectively operated as a center for conservation and nature education and as a wildlife sanctuary.

The **capital** in the endowment fund will be held in absolute trust by the San Francisco Foundation and the income from the capital account will be used only for the purposes for which the trust is set up. All gifts and bequests to the fund will be inviolate and will not be touched or drawn upon in any way. Investment of the capital funds will be supervised by the Crocker Citizens National Bank of San Francisco.

Since the directors of Audubon Canyon Ranch have set up the endowment fund as an important step in long-range planning, they have also had to look ahead and try to provide for every foreseeable possibility. And so the fund is being set up in such a way that if, for one reason or another, through disaster or some unfortunate set of circumstances, Canyon Ranch can no longer be operated effectively as a nature education center and wildlife sanctuary, then the income from the fund can be diverted to some other conservation organization, such as National Audubon Society, for use in this area. Thus, the fund will support Canyon Ranch for as long as it can be effectively operated, but in any case will permanently support conservation in California.

The Audubon Canyon Ranch Endowment Fund is not intended to produce money for our short-term needs. We still need a great deal to complete our purchase of the ranch but we hope to continue to raise this money from individual cash contributions.

the dunlins do not stay in close flocks once they have landed on the beach but spread out. They too nest in Alaska and are with us only in the winter time.

The black-bellied plover has a loud voice which has given it the nickname of the whistling field plover. It's much larger than the sandpipers and the dunlins and has also a heavier and shorter bill and a big head. It is black underneath from the bill almost to the tail, though there is a large patch of white on the black belly. Instead of running like the sandpipers across the sands, it walks slowly and sedately and when standing often holds up one leg. It is a dignified bird and seems to make deep bows when its head almost touches the ground. But when on the wing it flies swiftly. In feeding it sticks its bill into the mud at an angle, not straight up and down. It too nests in Alaska. The way to recognize a willet is by the beautiful pattern of black and white on its wings when in flight. This is a large bird with a long, straight bill and

To begin with the western sandpiper: There are a number of different sandpipers which are not easy to tell apart. They are often called "peeps" because of their tiny piping song. These birds are found in flocks which run swiftly across the sand or mudflats. Here they thrust their bills in and out of the ground at the rate of from three to four times a second. Then they will move a few steps and start all over again. As soon as its bill is in the ground, the bird raises its wings and the little body will rock forward on the legs like a seesaw. This tiny bird, about the size of a sparrow, has a streaked body and black legs. For all its tiny size it takes a very long trip every year back and forth from San Francisco Bay. For it builds its nest and lays its eggs way up in Alaska.

The dunlin or red-backed sandpiper has a reddish back and a black belly. Its bill, much longer than its head, bends down at the tip. This bird too bobs up and down as it feeds and as it does one sees, first, a flash of white, and then of brown as the breast and back come into view. Unlike the smaller western sandpiper

SHORE BIRDS (A leaflet for children)

Shore birds are a variety in themselves. They feed on insects and small crustaceans that lie in the sand and mud. For this reason these birds have long bills to poke into the ground and many of them have bills with very sensitive tips so that they can feel any movement underneath the sand.

Mr. Peterson tells us that there will be many black-bellied plovers, red-backed sandpipers, also known as dunlins, willets and western sandpipers, and there will also be other shore birds as well.

I thought you might like to know something about the four mentioned above; The largest of them is the willet and the smallest the western sandpiper, while the black-bellied plover is next smallest and the dunlin the second largest. Once more from the smallest to the largest: western sandpiper, dunlin, black-bellied plover and willet.

feathers all more or less grey. Its shrill call is loud and easily heard. Since this is a large bird with long legs, it will sometimes wade out into the water for its food and can even swim with ease because it has short webs between its toes. It nests somewhere away from the coast in marshy land in California.

I hope this will help you to tell the western sandpiper from the dunlin, the black-bellied plover and the willet.

Have a good time on your Field Trip! You are lucky to have Mr. Peterson, one of the Golden Gate Audubon Society's best-known leaders for adults as your guide. -- Janet Nickelsburg, Education Chairman, Golden Gate Audubon Society. April 1964.

We hope that a great many of our members will make bequests to the fund, thus extending into the indefinite future the support which they have given in the past.

Gifts and bequests to the fund — of money, securities and other property — are fully tax deductible and should be made to the San Francisco Foundation, 351 California Street, San Francisco 4, with the notation that they are intended as additions to the Audubon Canyon Ranch Endowment Fund.

We certainly hope you will consider this favorably. Won't you follow, please, with prompt action? — ERLINE HEVEL, *President*

REDWOOD CANYON TRIP

February 19th happened to be the right time for seeing leatherwood (Dirca) in its prime appearing as patches of yellow dots on the hillsides. On Huckleberry Trail off Manzanita Drive in Oakland, we walked a thousand yards under magnificent manzanitas crowded with bloom. Below them were chinquapins, their smooth thick leaves golden beneath, and their burs still holding on. While we lunched beside Redwood Peak, our party's invisible members, Elsie Roemer and Eleanor Hebard, having failed to find the sixteen of us on the Rim Trail, were at "Fernhoff Marsh" (near Skyline Blvd.) observing a marsh hawk and ten common snipe.

— MARSHALL JENCKS, *Leader*

ALAMEDA-BAY FARM ISLAND TRIP

Tide conditions were not favorable, but the group of approximately 40 that met in Alameda on Saturday, February 15, recorded 63 species. Several new observers, including a number of children, enjoyed a sunny day after a rainy night. High tide came at one o'clock. After scouting Lincoln Park, the party went to the foot of Broadway in Alameda. There were plenty of birds on the Bay shore, too far out for easy observation, but telescopes and incoming tide brought them nearer.

From the South Shore the party went to Doolittle Road, where birds had been largely driven out by the incoming tide. The next stop was on Oakport Road where we followed the slough to the point where Alameda Creek comes in to San Leandro Bay. Ducks in good numbers were close, but the wind had become brisk and cold.

The longest stop was for lunch at a sheltered place on the San Leandro Bay shore behind the Giacomazzi Transportation Company. Thousands of birds were loafing on the high tide and there was much to see in the air as well as on the flats.

During the afternoon we went to Bay Farm Island for brief stops at the golf course and on County Road before going, by permission, to the Oakland Airport. There we found the burrowing owl that we were looking for. The tide had turned and we saw thousands of birds in flight toward the Bay Farm Island feeding grounds.

No unusual species were observed, but we learned where the birds are and observed their response to changing tides.

Species observed during the day included horned, eared, western, and pied-billed grebes; double-crested cormorant, great blue heron, common and snowy egrets; pintail, American widgeon, shoveler, canvasback,

greater and lesser seaup, goldeneye, bufflehead, surf and white-winged scoter, and ruddy ducks; turkey vulture, red-tailed and sparrow hawks; coot, snowy and black-bellied plover, killdeer; willet, greater yellowlegs, dunlin, western and least sandpiper; marbled godwit, sanderling, avocet; glaucous-winged, western, California, ring-billed gull; Forster's tern; rook and mourning dove; Anna's hummingbird, red-shafted flicker, horned lark, scrub jay; chestnut-backed chickadee, bushtit, red-breasted nuthatch; mockingbird, robin, loggerhead shrike, starling; Audubon's warbler, yellowthroat; house sparrow, meadowlark, red-winged and Brewer's blackbird, house finch, brown towhee, Oregon junco, white-crowned and song sparrow. — ELSIE ROEMER, *Leader*

FIELD OBSERVATIONS

Eleanor Hebard reported a female hooded oriole in her garden on Bay Farm Island on February 4. On February 9 she phoned that the bird was eating quince blossoms; I went to the island a half hour later and had a good look at the bird. On February 25, at high tide, ten cinnamon teal were in openings between the grass off McCartney Road on Bay Farm Island. Eleanor and I had seen two the day before. This is the first time I have seen teal in this area. Yellowthroats have been observed frequently in gardens near the intersection of County Road and McCartney Road. Marsh area is close by, but the yellowthroats do not stay in the marsh.

— ELSIE ROEMER

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to our Society: from Albany, Mr. James E. Evans; from Berkeley, Mr. and Mrs. Alan Appleford, Miss Flora Dean, Mr. Pierre C. Fischer, Mr. Earl K. Hyde, Mr. Martin Knight, Miss Virginia Lee Lawrence, Miss Helen R. Thaler, Mr. and Mrs. Lynn O. Waldorf; from Oakland, Mr. Axel Elfstrom, Mrs. R. E. Fisher, Mrs. Frank Warren Hofmann, Mrs. Louis Weber; from Piedmont, Mrs. Alice B. Price, Dr. and Mrs. A. C. Rogerson; from Richmond, Miss Susan Cook, A. Preston Hendrickson; from San Francisco, Dr. and Mrs. William L. Bender, Mrs. Dorothy C. Comer, Miss Martha Doerr, Mr. David M. Greenberg, Mrs. Robert E. Phelan, Mr. Werner Sehumann. — VALERIA G. DaCOSTA, *Membership Chairman*

IN MEMORIAM

The following gifts of remembrance were made to the Audubon Canyon Ranch Fund:

In Memory of:

W. George McClusky, printer of *The Gull*
Kenneth Siegel
Wilbur North
Estelle B. Grisham
Veronica Keifer

Gift of:

Golden Gate Audubon Society
Dr. and Mrs. Maurice L. Zeff
Lynn and Eve Foree
Dr. and Mrs. Albert Boles
Eden Garden Club

— DR. ALBERT BOLES, *Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman*

AUDUBON CENTER OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

With the appointment of Mr. Lynn Stafford as assistant naturalist to Mr. Henry Houghton, Program Naturalist, the National Audubon Society now conducts a full year-round program at its new Educational Center on Richardson Bay. Patterned after similar Centers in Southern California, Ohio and Connecticut, the program seeks to promote an understanding of the value and need of the conservation of soil, water, plants and wildlife, and the relationship of their intelligent treatment and wise use to human progress. Open six days a week (closed on Sundays and holidays) from 9 to 5, groups may make appointments for guided field trips with the naturalists. Adults, and children accompanied by an adult, may visit the Center for informal, personal study during the hours it is open. Additional information may be obtained by telephoning the Center, 388-2524 or calling in person at 376 Tiburon Boulevard, Tiburon.

— WILLIAM GOODALL, *National Audubon Western Representative*

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT AT SNOW MUSEUM

“Nature Photography” is the subject of a new exhibit at Snow Museum, 19th and Harrison Streets, Oakland. The current display shows the work of local photographers along with the equipment pertinent to different types of photography. Prints include a representation of Mrs. Glenn Hoover’s black and white studies and reproductions of Eliot Porter’s works. The Snow Museum is open from 10 to 5 daily, and the exhibit will remain through April and possibly longer.

MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE’S CURRENT PROJECT

Marin Conservation League is raising money to buy 87 acres of San Francisco Bay tidelands between Paradise Drive and Corte Madera Creek. The property is now owned by the Utah Construction Company. The Marin Conservation League, (Box 437, Ross) is a 30-year-old organization that has a continuing program of land acquisition, parks and beaches improvements, and cooperation with all conservation groups.

REVISED CHECK LIST FOR S.F. BAY REGION

Ferd Ruth announced the completion of his compilation, “Habitat Check List of the Vertebrates of the San Francisco Bay Region.” The booklet is available for 50c plus tax at the Berkeley office of the National Audubon Society, 2426 Bancroft Way. This is a much expanded and revised version of the check list compiled by Ferd in 1960, according to *The Quail*, bulletin of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society.

Mr. A. W. Larson of Golden Gate Audubon Society would appreciate help in taking nature photographs, including nesting birds. If you know of good possibilities, please phone LA 5-9149 or write to him at 44 Rincon Road, Berkeley 7.

The deadline for the May *Gull* will be April 7.



GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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Claims for missing numbers of THE GULL	should be sent to the Editor. Changes of address should be sent to the Membership Chairman.				

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Visit the Conservation Center of the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
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